

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno et al. (US 2002/0093578A1) in view of Okamura (USP 6,788,345) and in further view of Miyawaki et al. (USP 6,522,360). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states in last 3 lines in page 2 of the Office Action that “Kowno et al. state (in paragraph 0162), “the image is enlarged at a magnification proportional to the distance of the dragging such that the dragging starting point ‘a’ is displayed at the center of the LCD 6 as shown in Fig. 9.”

Applicants agree that Kowno displays the starting point “a” on an enlarged image after an area of an image to be enlarged is specified. More specifically, Kowno states, in paragraph [0162], that “The CPU 39 receives from the touch tablet 6A a coordinate value of the dragging starting point ‘a’ and the dragging ending point ‘b’ and calculates a distance of dragging from the dragging starting point ‘a’ to the dragging ending point ‘b’ and an angle ‘x’ . . . Then if angle ‘x’ is within a scope of a table of specified angles stored in the memory card 24, the image is enlarged at a magnification proportional to the distance of the dragging such that the dragging starting point ‘a’ is displayed at the center of the LCD 6 as shown in Fig. 9.”

Therefore, in Kowno, the dragging starting point ‘a’ (corresponds to the “mark” recited in claims 1, 2, 8, and 9) is displayed after the amount of enlargement of the image is designated.

In contrast, in the claimed invention of the present application, a display control unit controls a display unit in such a manner that the display control unit also displays, “on the image of the subject, a mark indicative of a center point of an electronic zoom area prior to designation of the electronic zoom area.” Support for this feature can be found at least in page 10, lines 3-13 of the specification as filed.

Okamura discloses an image pickup apparatus in which an illuminating angle of the flash device is controlled to correspond to the magnification varying information.

Therefore, even assuming that Kowno and Okamura can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, only conceive an information processing device of Kowno, in which an image is enlarged based on points “a” and “b” and an angle of an imaginary line connecting these two points, and also in which the point “a” is displayed at the center of the an enlarged image, provided with an image pickup apparatus of Okamura in which the illuminating angle of the flash device is controlled to point toward point “a.”

However, Kowno and Okamura, taken singly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “also displaying, on the image of the subject, a mark indicative of a center point of an electronic zoom area prior to designation of the electronic zoom area.”

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, Miyawaki merely discloses recording both the original image and image data representing the electronic zoom image, and is not relied upon to teach anything about the claimed light-emission control unit.

Claims 2 and 8 are allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Claims 4-7, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno in view of Okamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Claim 10, dependent on claim 9, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 9.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

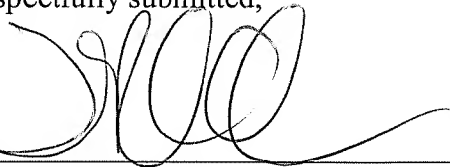
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to Office Action of July 26, 2006
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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